

Message Text

SECRET

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15 11
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 PRS-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-03 ORM-01 /039 W
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O 230544Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3994
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE
COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 3325

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO/SAIGON 22 MARCH 75
BEING REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 203

LIMDIS

DAO FOR AOSOP-IX/AOSOP-ISM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS
SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION MR-2

REF: NHA TRANG 202

1. BINH DINH:

ACTION CONTINUES TO PICK UP AROUND QUI NHON CITY AND IN TUY
PHUOC DISTRICT, BINH DINH. AT 210830 HRS, THE VC ATTACKED
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3 PF PLTS AT PHUOC HIEP VILLAGE HQA (CR 021538); REPORTEDLY

THE COMMUNISTS TOOK 30 KIA AND LOST 95 HAND GRENADES AS AGAINST MINOR GVN CASUALTIES. AT 211500 HRS, TUY PHUOC SUBSECTOR HQS TOOK TEN 82-MM MORTAR SHELLS SUSTAINING 3 WOUNDED. AT 212115 HRS, 2 KM NORTH OF QUI NHON, A PF PLT CLASHED WITH A COMMUNIST UNIT REPORTEDLY TAKING 1 WIA AS AGAINST 5 COMMUNISTS KIA. AND, AT 220015 HRS, AN EXPLOSION ON NGUYEN HUE STREET, QUI NHON, INJURED 2 CIVILIANS; THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION IS UNKNOWN. ELSEWHERE IN BINH DINH, THE VC DESTROYED A CULVERT AT BR 933784 IN PHU MY ON MARCH 22; QL-1 IS NOW CLOSED AT THAT POINT.

2. KHANH HOA:

HEAVY FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT IN KHANH DUONG DISTRICT. FROM 210800 HRS TO 1830 HRS, THE 1ST AND 2ND BNS OF THE 40TH ARVN REGT MADE CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNISTS AT POSITIONS 8 AND 9 KM NW OF KHANH DUONG DISTRICT TOWN. REPORTEDLY GVN CASUALTIES IN THESE 2 CONTACTS WERE 4 KIA, 4 WIA, AND SEVERAL WEAPONS LOST AS AGAINST COMMUNIST LOSSES OF 43 KIA, 1 CIA, SEVERAL WEAPONS LOST, AND A TANK KNOCKED OUT. AT 212130 HRS THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED ANOTHER ATTACK AGAINST THE 40TH IN THE SAME AREA, TAKING 8 KIA (GVN LOSSES NOT REPORTED). ON MARCH 22, THE GVN POSITION IN KHANH DUONG DETERIORATED. BEGINNING AT 0830 HRS, KHANH DUONG DISTRICT HQS CAME UNDER ATTACK BY FIRE. VNAF WAS CALLED IN, BUT MISTAKENLY BOMBED AROUND THE DISTRICT HQS ITSELF (NO CASUALTIES REPORTED). AFTER COMING UNDER HEAVY GROUND PRESSURE AT 1000 HRS, GVN FORCES ABANDONED THE DISTRICT HQS. HOWEVER, MORE VNAF STRIKES WERE CALLED IN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST FORCES APPROACHING THE SUBSECTOR HQS, AND REPORTEDLY 11 COMMUNIST TANKS WERE KNOCKED OUT. AT 1800 HRS, BG THAN, DEPUTY MR-2 COMMANDER, REPORTED THAT GVN FORWARD LINES HAD BEEN PULLED BACK TO APPROXIMATELY 3 KM SOUTHEAST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN, WHICH NOW IS IN COMMUNIST HANDS. THE 40TH REGT, ACCORDING TO THAN, HAS TAKEN MODERATE CASUALTIES.

3. COLONEL PHAM HAS NOW RESUMED COMMAND OF TERRITORIAL FORCES IN KHANH DUONG. COLONEL DUC COMMANDS ALL OTHER FORCES IN THE AREA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 3RD AIRBORNE COMMANDED BY LTC PHAT. INFORMATION THAT GENERAL THAN HAD OVER-ALL COMMAND OF THE OPERATION WAS ERRONEOUS. THAN HIMSELF TOLD US THAT THE

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OVER-ALL COMMAND OF THE KHANH DUONG OPERATION WAS HELD BY "II CORPS".

4. ELSEWHERE IN KHANH DUONG ON MARCH 22, 7 COMMUNIST TANKS WERE SPOTTED AT BQ 5051&5 AND 3 COMMUNIST TANKS WERE SPOTTED AT BY 685125.

5. QUNAG DUC:

AS OF MID-AFTERNOON OF MARCH 22, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT QUANG DUC PROVINCE HAD BEEN ABANDONED. GVN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE EVACUATING NORTH TOWARDS DUC XUYEN DISTRICT. PROVINCE HQS, THE SECTOR TOC AND OTHER OFFICIAL BUILDINGS INCLUDING, REPORTEDLY, OUR PRRO COMPOUND, HAVE BEEN PUT TO THE TORCH.

6. ALL ICCS DELEGATES HAVE LEFT THE NINH HOA SITE.

SPEAR

UNQUOTE

LEHMANN

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